

Mr. Jerome Agel
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11/15/88

Dear Jerry,

The operation was for cataract removal, usually outpatient but because of my problems with coagulating blood, I was hospitalized most of a week and as a hematology patient. Doctors report success, I feel that they are quite right, but it may take a couple of months to determine just how successful. It was on my right or better eye, which I still can't use to read or type and I go back for a further check and a little more work I don't really understand the sixth of next month. Can't drive, etc but feel as good as I've felt for several years.

I remember Sally Belirage as a beautiful young woman the least of whose beauty was physical, pretty as she was as a young woman. I met her former husband only once. Please remember me to her and ask her to convey my best wishes to her father who I'm glad to know is still with us from an excellent review he did, if I remember correctly it was a review, of Gabriel Marquez' then new book. And Hi back to Walter and his families.

You ask about Marina Oswald on the Anderson show and in the Journal. She knew nothing, knows nothing now (except how wrong you were in characterizing Lee as a woman-hater just because he had a shrew for a mother) and although I do not hold her in high esteem, she was terribly abused by the FBI. What I said about her in my first book, which perhaps you still have, and her treatment was too understated. I got additional records from the FBI that leave it beyond question that she was blackmailed into changing just about everything she said before the Commission, which was, in general, the opposite of the truth she wrote out in longhand before she was called as a witness. Some of the young women students at local Wood College, where all my materials will wind up, have been using them for honors papers and other, longer studies. One did a fine paper on how she was abused. If anyone is interested I can probably get a copy for them. When she says such things as maybe the mafia was behind it she speaks not from knowledge but from planted ideas.

Anderson's people, who were not his staff but Hollywood's Saban Productions, had access to my records. I got them a college student to do the searching and copying and in several instances the show said the opposite of what the records say. It was a nothing show, as best I could make it out with my poorer eye the night after the operation. I'm told they include me in the credits. I couldn't read them and I didn't get some of what I should have been able to see but didn't. There is no reason to believe there was any mafia involvement, Jack Anderson's first questions about the Warren report were not, as he said, from John Roselli, if they ever met, but from the lawyer Ed Morgan, who repped R and Giancana, etc. I've not bothered to read Scheim's book, which is not new but an exploitive reprint with the pretense of newness, and although I was able to help John Davis quite a bit with his nonsense about "arcello being the assassination Kingfish, it lacks any credibility at all. He's not sent me a copy and I haven't read it. This goes from the Kvitny show, whose people were here and got what records they wanted, plus taking some of my pictures without my permission (He's not responded to my demand for their return). His show was not aired outside of New York, I understand.

I've no interest in the replays of the contemporaneous coverage so I won't be taking those shows in. There is going to be a good one I think you might well want to take in, on A & E at 7 p.m. the 18th and at 11 p.m. the 20th. This is the master's thesis of a Univ. Md. graduate student in communications. He won the CINE "Eagle" award with it. He and I sued the Zapruders to break the film loose. We agreed to a compromise only because it was the one means of getting his documentary aired by the time of the anniversary. I've little doubt that the copyright doesn't exist and never did but we'll let others establish that, automatically if the Zs do not sue.

Reston Jr. has no basis at all for theorizing that Oswald was shooting at Connally. Yet this is the kind of trash that gets attention and generous pay,

In my opinion all this kind of theorizing is counterproductive and tends to obscure the realities. It mislead the people and is irresponsible.

I gave up on DeLillo's fraud, really a fraud because of the misrepresentations in which he engaged to get it well launched. I went through about a quarter of it and it isn't even a decent fiction novel, leave alone a non-fiction one, which he represents. He told the WxPost that his characters simply leaped off the pages of the Warren Commission's records. Truth is most of them are not even mentioned and what he has is an immature rehash of the silliest conspiracy theories that had no basis in fact at all.

Going back to Reston, Jr., I'm sure that he, like you and so many others, never did investigate to see whether there really is a case of Oswald's firing even a single shot. You all just had these brilliant ideas and assumed what it was necessary to assume as the basis for the invalid theorizing. I have a fairly strong feeling that an element of this will be basic in the Nova show to be aired tonight. And I include in this what they will probably air by a neutron-activation expert Dr. Vincent Guinn. Neither he nor Nova had any interest in the suppressed records of this that I got in FOIA litigation. Among other things, those tests show that Oswald could not have fired a rifle that day.

Guinn, meanwhile, could not validate the specimens he was given to test and in corruptible as his dedication to science is he, knowing and even admitting this, went ahead with his tests of specimens of unknown origin and pretended that they were authentic, the real stuff. Ain't ~~that~~ science wonderful?

I've not seen David Melin's book and don't expect to buy it. He also has no need of fact or knowledge because, obviously, knowing where to get it he hasn't. He is not really defending the Warren Report. He is a screeching Judenrat seeking to justify himself. He claims that the Commission got and knew all there was to get and know. He knows this is a lie but he is no less principled than the eminent Guinn.

Mrs. Harding's was a much more respectable profession.

Best,

